Integrated Nutrients Management

138. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Integrated Nutrients Management;

(b) the achievements in this regard during the last two years; and

(c) the details of plans for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) is an approach to improve and maintain soil fertility, sustain agricultural productivity and improve farmer's profitability through judicious and efficient use of chemical fertilizers, organic manures and bio-fertilizers in an integrated manner. INM is promoted through National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) and National project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF).

(b) During 2007-08 under NPOF, 572 vermiculture hatcheries, 19 bio-fertilizer production units, 11 fruit and vegetable waste compost units and 164 model organic farms and 1,954 field demonstrations on organic inputs were sanctioned. Similarly, during 2008-09, 108 vermiculture hatcheries, 3 bio-fertilizer units, 1 fruit and vegetable waste compost units, 51 model organic farms and 887 field demonstrations on organic inputs sanctioned.

A new scheme, "National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility" was launched during 2008-09. 42 new static Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs), 44 new mobile STLs strengthening of 39 existing STLs, establishment of 2 new Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) and strengthening of 19 existing FQCLs were sanctioned for 16 States during 2008-09 under the new scheme.

(c) Item-wise details of plans for the current financial year are:

(i) Promotion of balanced use of fertilizers based on soil test reports; (ii) Promotion of micronutrient deficiencies in deficient zone based on soil test reports; (iii) Amelioration of problematic soils with the application of soil amendments such as lime, gypsum, rock phosphate and basic slag; (iv) Trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers; (v) Establishment of new STLs, mobile STLs and strengthening existing STLs; (vi) Promoting use of bio-fertilizers and organic manures, capacity building through training, demonstrations as well as organic farming approaches; (vii) Establishment of production unit of bio-fertilizers, vermi-compost and fruit and vegetable waste compost, (viii) Strengthening of existing fertilizer quality control laboratories and opening new laboratories.

Sanctions are made based on the proposals received from the State Governments.